

My name is Laura Cohen and I am a social work student at the University of Kansas. I want to show my support for SB 410 because I truly feel that it is important to identify dyslexia in students at a young age. This bill states that a child who has been diagnosed with dyslexia shall receive best practices available by the school district. Dyslexia is different from other reading disorders; therefore it should be treated differently as well. I agree with the proponent that schools should be required to screen students from pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, first, and second grade. Then there can be proper steps taken to make sure that each child has an equal opportunity to learn in school.

I work for the Office of Students in Transition for one of the districts in Missouri and I work first-hand with students who cannot read. These students were never screened for dyslexia or any other reading disability and may not be getting the attention or curriculum in which they deserve. It is hard to see a first grader get frustrated when trying to read while knowing that there may be certain practices out there to help them learn. I am in support of SB 410 and will continue to reach out to others and explain why this bill needs to be passed in the state of Kansas.

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